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PATENT
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 041465-5102

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)

Kenji MORITA, *et al.*)

Serial No.: 09/818,632)

Examiner: Unassigned

Filed: March 28, 2001)

Group Art Unit: 2621

For: **APPARATUS FOR AND METHOD OF**)
PROCESSING IMAGE)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Technology Center 2600

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO Form 1449.

To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application, and no fees are believed to be necessary.

The references included in this Information Disclosure Statement were cited in a corresponding European Patent Application. A copy of the search report from the European Patent Office citing these documents and setting forth the relevance thereof is enclosed.

A copy of the listed documents are attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the enclosed search report and listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached PTO Form 1449.

This submission does not represent that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "Prior Art." If it should be determined that any of the listed documents do not constitute "Prior Art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

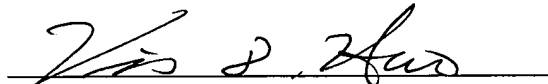
If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

Dated: March 20, 2002

By:


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